



HEALTH ADVISORY (#48)

MOSQUITO-BORNE DISEASE SEASON ADVISORY, 2011

TO: ALL West Virginia Healthcare Providers

FROM: Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH, Acting State Health Officer
WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: May 16, 2011

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: Please distribute to COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, LAB DIRECTORS, and OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: Please distribute to ASSOCIATION MEMBERS and STAFF

Mosquito-borne diseases occur annually in West Virginia beginning in May and peak in August–September, coinciding with mosquito activity. Arboviral infections, particularly La Crosse encephalitis, are the most common type of mosquito-borne disease identified in West Virginia. Persons with severe arboviral infection often have symptoms of encephalitis; please be vigilant for such cases and ensure that all hospitalized patients with encephalitis undergo appropriate testing.

The preferred diagnostic test for arboviral encephalitis is virus-specific IgM antibodies in cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or serum. Testing for a complete arbovirus panel is available free-of-charge at the Bureau for Public Health's Office of Laboratory Services (OLS). Please see <http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/labs/virology/arbovirus.cfm> for specimen collection and shipping information or call OLS at (304)-558-3530.

Prompt reporting of possible mosquito-borne disease cases to local health officials (as required by 64CSR7) is *critical* to our efforts. To prevent further cases, local health departments do patient home visits and local outreach to provide education on mosquito-borne disease prevention. Travel-associated cases of mosquito-borne disease (i.e. malaria, dengue) should also be reported to local health officials in accordance with 64CSR7.

For more information about infectious diseases (including mosquito-borne diseases) in West Virginia, please visit <http://www.wvdeh.org>. You may also contact your local health department (http://www.wvdhhr.org/wvlocalhealth/lhd_profiles/lhdreport/index.asp) or call the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology toll-free in West Virginia at (800)-423-1271. Thank you in advance for helping us in this effort!

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to Local Health Departments and other key stakeholders. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.